



Tandem supported Pt and ZSM-5 catalyst with separated catalytic functions for promoting multicomponent VOCs oxidation

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ABSTRACT

The painting and electronics industries simultaneously release aromatic compounds and chlorinated organics. The development of catalysts with synergistic control of these pollutants is of great significance to achieve air purification. However, developing active catalysts while maintaining good chlorine resistance remain a huge challenge due to the difficulty of the trade-off between the redox properties and acidity and the production of polychlorinated byproducts. Herein, we introduce a novel tandem PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 catalyst and investigate its catalytic performance for multicomponent volatile organic compounds (VOCs) oxidation. The two individual catalysts, PtSn/CeO₂ and Mn/ZSM-5, were used to catalyze two distinct sequential reactions. PtSn/CeO₂ catalyzed toluene oxidation to produce CO₂ and H₂O. Meanwhile, the introduction of SnO_x favored the adsorption of trichloroethylene (TCE) molecules that prevented Pt sites from chlorine poisoning and possibly converted adsorbed TCE into intermediates, which were subsequently oxidized deeply by the nearby Mn/ZSM-5. This approach resulted in a remarkable oxidation efficiency for toluene ($T_{90} = 296\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) and TCE ($T_{90} = 384\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$), with fewer unexpected toxic byproducts (chlorobenzene and 4-chlorotoluene). Furthermore, the tandem catalyst possessed excellent chlorine and water resistances. In conclusion, the above findings provide new insights into the design and/or syntheses of advanced catalysts for widespread VOCs pollution control.

1. Introduction

Urbanization and industrialization have led to a rapid increase in the emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which has ultimately led to concerns regarding their impact on human health and general well-being [1–3]. In addition, as a kind of detrimental air pollutant with high toxicity, biodegradation difficulty, and a strong capacity for inducing secondary pollution (e.g., photochemical smog), chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOs) cause major concern for scientists [4,5]. VOCs and CVOs are often released into the atmosphere together with actual industrial emissions [6]. Although the catalytic oxidation technique for VOCs elimination is effective, enhancing the catalytic stability and simultaneously inhibiting the production of organic byproducts are still a great challenge, especially for the oxidation of multicomponent VOCs including CVOs.

Currently, Pt-based catalysts show the best catalytic activities for aromatic oxidation [7,8]. However, catalysts containing Pt nanoparticles are extremely susceptible to poisoning by trace amounts of Cl species in the combustion of CVOs, eventually causing catalyst

deactivation. Furthermore, the polychlorinated byproducts formed during the oxidation of CVOs could be more harmful than the original pollutants [9]. These problems have motivated research on improving the Cl tolerance of catalysts and enhancing the catalytic performances. There are three strategies to alleviate chlorinated organic generation and improve the HCl selectivity: 1) acid sites can be added to promote the formation of HCl. Brønsted acid sites can accelerate the dissociation of C–Cl bonds and provide abundant H atoms to form HCl. Lewis acid sites are favorable for the dissociation of C–H bonds. 2) The redox properties can be optimized to achieve low-temperature complete oxidation of Cl-VOCs and their intermediate products to avoid the Cl₂ formation temperature window. 3) The catalyst structures can be adjusted to protect specific components from direct contact with adsorbed Cl species and promote HCl diffusion by enhancing mass transfer. While some achievements have been made, the inevitable catalyst deactivation caused by the adsorption of Cl species must be addressed to enable the use of Pt-based catalysts.

In recent years, transition and rare earth metal oxide catalysts have been widely used, owing to their low costs, better resistance against Cl

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poisoning, and abundant oxygen vacancies [10,11]. CeO_2 , FeMnO_x , $\text{CeO}_2\text{-CrO}_x\text{-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$, $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3\text{-CeO}_2$, and CeMnO_x catalysts are widely used in the oxidation of CVOs [12–16]. However, by-products are inevitably produced, causing the yield of HCl to decrease. It has been reported that suitable Brønsted acid sites play a dominant role in the adsorption and activation of CVOs and can also provide hydride to form HCl, thereby enabling the selectivity to molecular chlorine (Cl_2), and the formation of polychlorinated hydrocarbon (PCH) byproducts can be inhibited. H-type zeolites with high acidity usually exhibit better activity and selectivity. Mn/ZSM-5 , $\text{MnCeO}_x/\text{HZSM-5}$, $\text{CeCrO}_x/\text{HZSM-5}$, and RuCo/HZSM-5 applied for the catalytic combustion of CVOs have been shown to exhibit good catalytic performances [17–20]. Furthermore, Zhan et al. reported that under the synergistic effects of a large number of weak and medium acid sites and redox properties, the catalytic performances of $\text{Sn}_y\text{Mn}_{1-y}\text{O}_x$ catalyst for vinyl chloride oxidation were significantly improved compared with those of pure SnO_x and MnO_x catalysts [21]. In summary, it is imperative to develop new catalysts that possess suitable acidity, strong redox abilities, and good chlorine resistance.

Recently, tandem catalysts have received much attention because of the multiple and distinct interfaces for the catalysis of sequential reactions, which can improve the selectivity for target products [22–24]. Yang et al. designed a unique nanocrystal bilayer structure formed by two distinct interfaces, $\text{CeO}_2\text{-Pt}$ and Pt-SiO_2 , which effectively catalyzed ethylene to achieve propanal selectively [25]. The superior propanal selectivity could be attributed to the synergy between the two sequential reactions and the altered reaction pathway afforded by the tandem reaction [26]. Kang et al. achieved a highly selective catalytic conversion from syngas to ethanol by triple tandem catalysis [27]. In the two-stage $\text{Ce/TiO}_2\text{-Cu/CeO}_2$ system for the deep catalytic combustion of dichloromethane (DCM), the rupture of C-Cl and the total oxidation of CO were physically isolated. This separated arrangement showed an excellent oxidation capability for CO and the byproducts, and it avoided the chlorine poisoning of TiO_2 [28]. To date, there have been no reports on the use of tandem catalysts for the catalytic elimination of multi-component VOCs.

Enlightened by these observations, we report the design and synthesis of a new generation of tandem catalysts, in which acid-solid supported catalysts are packed on the end of Pt-based catalysts for multicomponent VOCs oxidation. The proposed catalyst was applied for the oxidation of 1000-ppm toluene and 200-ppm trichloroethylene (TCE). Based on the experimental findings of the present work, the tandem catalyst had an superior multipollutant conversion efficiency than the individual catalysts, achieving lower toxic byproduct generation. Furthermore, there was no visible change in the catalytic performance of the two-stage catalyst after the introduction of H_2O , indicating its stability. This finding opens a new path for the design of high-efficiency Cl-tolerant catalysts for multicomponent VOCs oxidation.

2. Experimental

2.1. Catalyst preparation

2.1.1. Synthesis of Pt/CeO_2 and PtSn/CeO_2

PtSn NPs were synthesized using the solvothermal method. 0.025 mmol of platinum (II) 2,4-pentanedionate ($\text{Pt}(\text{acac})_2$), 0.008 mmol tin chloride dihydrate and 100 mg of polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP, K-30) was dissolved in *N,N*-Dimethylformamide (DMF) (6 mL), the mixture was stirred at room temperature (RT) for 20 min. Then, a 10-mL Teflon-lined autoclave that contains the above solution is heated at 180°C for 12 h. After cooling to RT, the solution centrifuged and washed with acetone and ethanol for three times. The as-obtained PtSn NPs are dispersed in 5 mL of ethanol for the preparation of the supported catalysts [29]. For comparison purpose, Pt NPs are also synthesized according to the above preparation procedures.

The as-synthesized PtSn and Pt NPs were loaded on the commercial CeO_2 support. The supported catalysts are prepared according to the

following procedures. The as-obtained PtSn and Pt NPs were mixed with CeO_2 (theoretical platinum loading = 1 wt%) in 15 mL of ethanol. After being stirred at RT for 12 h, the solids were separated via centrifugation and dried in a vacuum drying chamber. Then, the dried products and 20 mL sodium hydroxide (2 mol/L) were mixed under stirring at 70°C for 6 h, and this operation is only for PtSn NPs, which is helpful to the exposure of metallic Pt and favor the VOCs oxidation [30]. The mixed solution is centrifuged and the catalyst are washed with deionized water for three times. Finally, the sample was calcined in a muffle furnace for calcination at 550°C for 2 h. The as-obtained supported catalysts were denoted as PtSn/CeO_2 and Pt/CeO_2 .

2.1.2. Synthesis of Mn/ZSM-5

Syntheses of HZSM-5 are described as follows: the commercial ZSM-5 with a Si: Al ratio of 38 was carried out by ion-exchanging four times in a large excess of NH_4NO_3 aqueous solution of (1 mol/L, 30 mL/g) at 80°C for 6 h and calcined again at 550°C for 6 h. The $\text{MnO}_x/\text{HZSM-5}$ catalysts were prepared by the wetness impregnation method with a theoretical metal loading of 12.0 wt%, where the 12.0 wt% represented the loading amount of Mn. Precisely measured $\text{Mn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and as-obtained HZSM-5 power were mixed in ethanol, following by continuous stirring for 10 h. The mixture was then dried at 80°C for 10 h and calcined at 550°C for 5 h in static air. The products were denoted as Mn/ZSM-5 .

For the tandem catalyst system, the first stage was PtSn/CeO_2 and the second stage was Mn/ZSM-5 . The two stages of the catalysts had the same mass in the reactor. A little amount of silica sand was placed between the two beds for the separation of two catalysts. The tandem system was denoted as PtSn/CeO_2 & Mn/ZSM-5 . It is necessary to note that the distance between the two stages of the catalysts is not greater than 2 mm. Meanwhile, the two stages of catalysts are at the same distance from the temperature monitoring site, which could ensure that the two stages of the catalysts have the same reaction temperature.

For the physical mixture system, the catalyst was prepared by solid state process that the two catalysts PtSn/CeO_2 and Mn/ZSM-5 of the equal quality were mixed and well grinded. The physical mixture catalyst was denoted as $\text{PtSn/CeO}_2 + \text{Mn/ZSM-5}$.

2.2. Catalyst characterization

The physicochemical properties of samples were characterized by the inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectroscopic (ICP-AES), powder X-ray diffraction (XRD), transmission electron microscopy (TEM), and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) techniques, laser Raman spectroscopy (Raman), high-angle annular dark field-scanning transmission electron microscopy (HAADF-STEM), element mappings, thermal desorption analysis (TD)-online gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (TD/GC-MS), and temperature-programmed surface reaction (TPSR). The detailed characterization procedures can be found in the [Supplementary materials](#).

2.3. Catalytic activity evaluation

Catalytic performance of the samples for toluene, TCE or (toluene + TCE) oxidation is carried out in a continuous flow fixed-bed quartz tubular microreactor. The reaction feed under the actual conditions is composed of (1000 ppm toluene + 20 vol% $\text{O}_2 + \text{N}_2$ (balance)) with or without 200 ppm TCE, and the space velocity (SV) is 40,000 mL/(g h). In the case of water vapor introduction, 5.0 vol% H_2O was introduced by passing the feed stream through a water saturator at 34°C . The analysis of the concentrations of reactants and products was conducted online by gas chromatography. The balance of carbon in the catalytic system was $98.5 \pm 1.5\%$. The Cl_2 concentration in the above solution was measured using a chemical titration method, and the Cl^- concentration was analyzed using an ion selective electrode. Toluene and TCE conversion ($X\%$) was calculated according to the formula: $X = (\text{C}_{\text{inlet}} - \text{C}_{\text{outlet}})/\text{C}_{\text{inlet}} \times 100\%$, in which the C_{inlet} and C_{outlet} are the inlet and outlet toluene or

TCE concentrations in the feed stream, respectively.

3. Results

3.1. Catalytic performance

The evaluation results for the catalytic oxidation of 1000-ppm toluene and 200-ppm TCE over the as-obtained catalysts under dry air conditions are shown in Fig. 1, and the corresponding 50 % and 90 % toluene and TCE conversion temperatures (T_{50} and T_{90} , respectively) are listed in Table 1. As shown in Fig. 1 A, the catalytic activities of the PtSn/CeO₂ were much better than those of the Pt/CeO₂, which demonstrated the significant promotive effect of SnO_x on the toluene and TCE oxidation [21,31]. It is worth noting that the toluene catalytic activities of the PtSn/CeO₂ (T_{50} = 269 °C and T_{90} = 308 °C) and Mn/ZSM-5 (T_{50} = 292 °C and T_{90} = 336 °C) were comparable. In contrast, the TCE catalytic activity of the PtSn/CeO₂ (T_{50} = 362 °C and T_{90} = 500 °C) was lower than that of the Mn/ZSM-5 (T_{50} = 333 °C and T_{90} = 398 °C). The PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 exhibited the highest catalytic activities.

To determine the differences between the tandem catalyst and the

single catalysts, qualitative identification of the organic byproducts in the off-gases from the mixed VOCs oxidation reaction was conducted. Though the catalytic activity for mixed VOCs oxidation was only slightly different between the single and tandem catalysts, the intermediates detected were distinct. The temperature T_{90} in Fig. 1 C is the temperature for TCE conversion of over 90 % of the catalysts. Fig. 1 C shows a variety of organic by-products, including carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄), perchloroethylene (C₂Cl₄), benzaldehyde (C₇H₆O), and other aromatic organics. In particular, undesired and hypertoxic by-products, namely chlorobenzene (C₆H₅Cl) (CB) and 4-chlorotoluene (C₇H₇Cl), were not found over the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5, while they were observed with all other single catalysts. Moreover, it has been reported that CB is an important precursor of dioxin formation, which causes great harm to human health and the environment [32,33]. The generation of the highest amounts of polychlorinated byproducts revealed that severe electrophilic chlorination occurred on these catalysts [34].

3.2. Crystal phase structure, morphology, and surface area

A series of characterization experiments were conducted to reveal

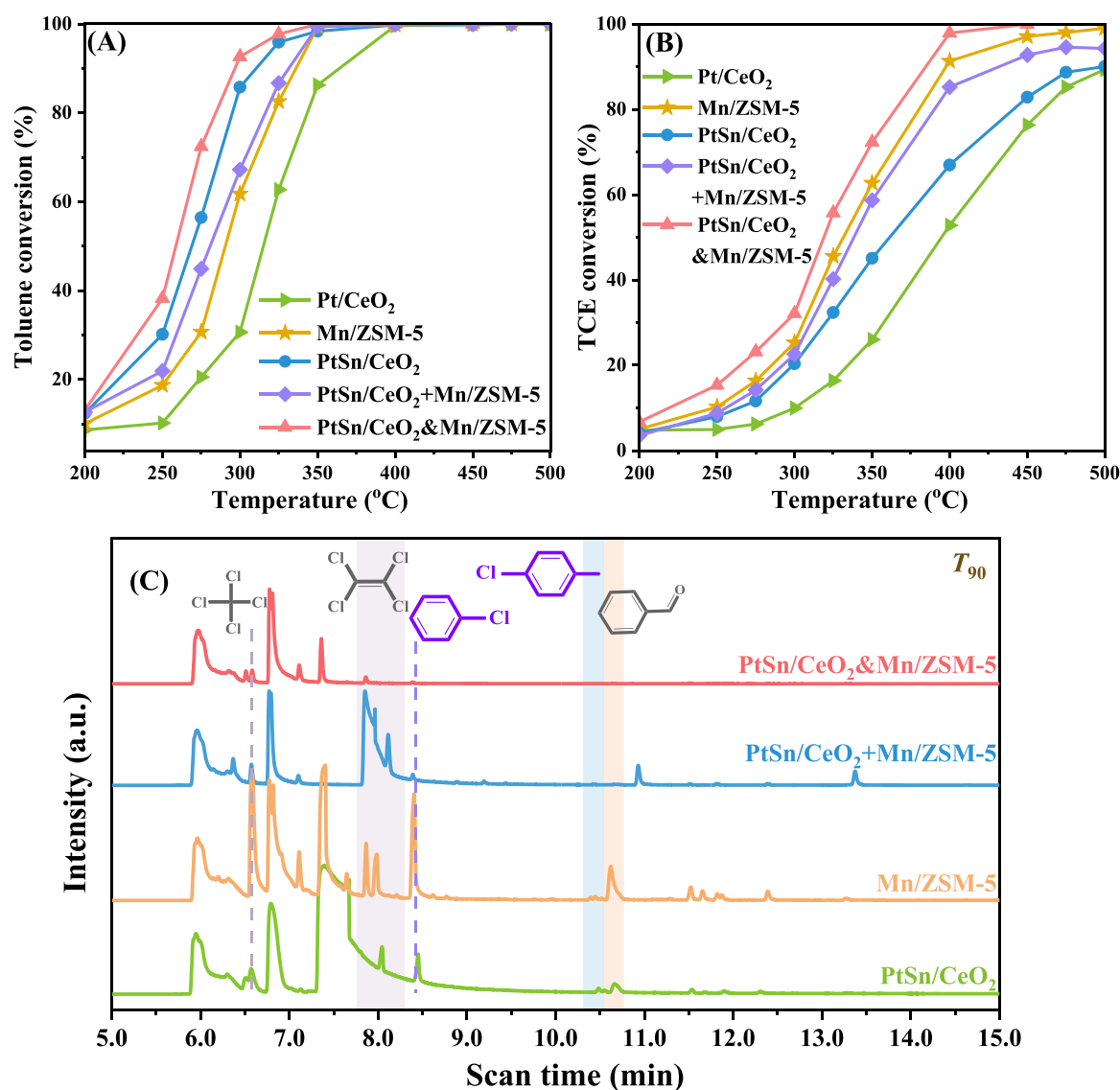
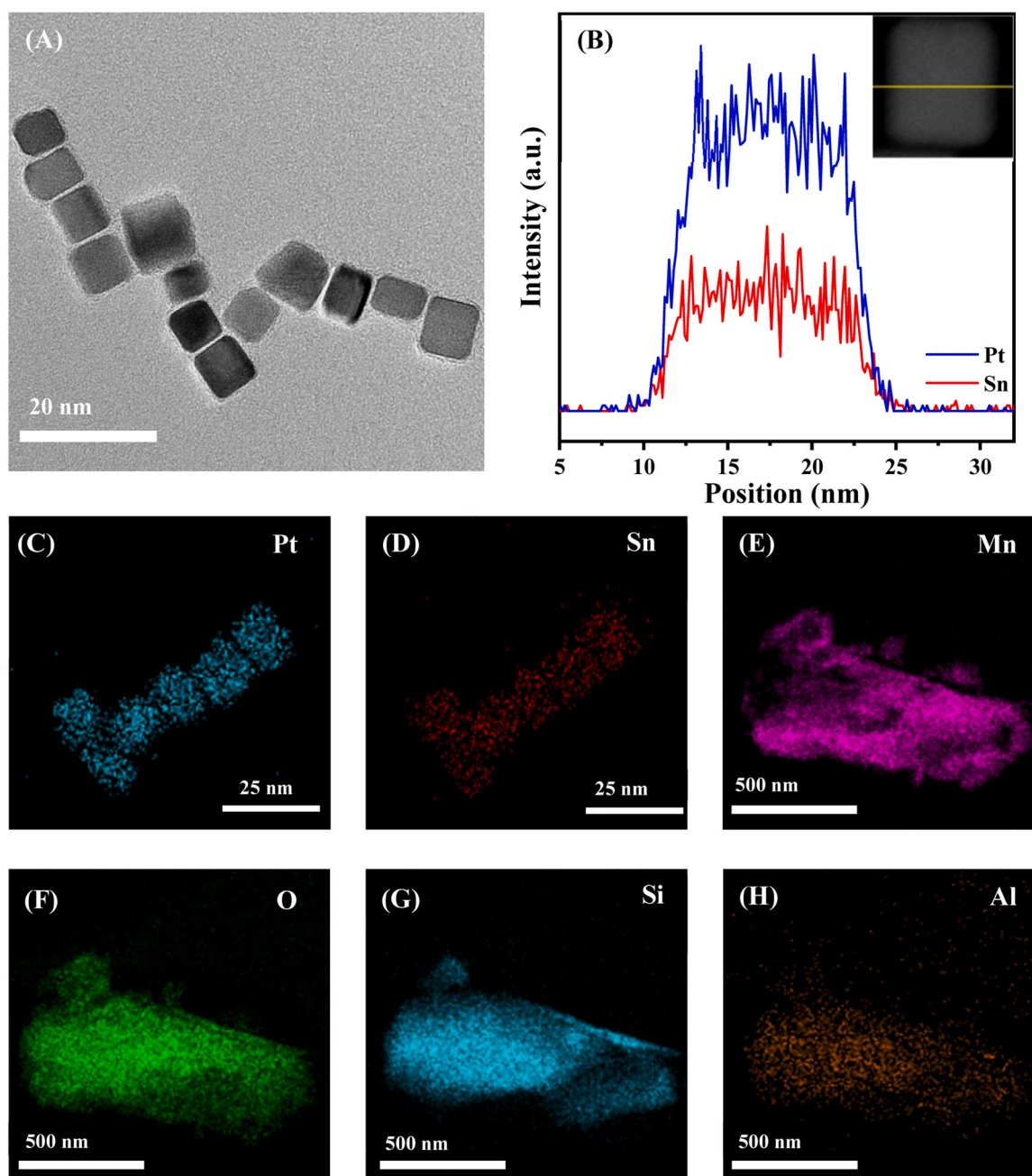


Fig. 1. (A) Toluene and (B) TCE conversion as a function of temperature over the as-obtained samples for the mixed VOCs oxidation. Reaction condition: (1000 ppm toluene + 200 ppm TCE + 20 vol% O₂ + N₂ (balance)), and SV = 40,000 mL/(g h)). (C) qualitative analysis of gaseous by-products generated over the as-obtained samples at the temperature for TCE conversion of 90 %.

Table 1

Toluene and TCE oxidation activities over the as-obtained samples at SV = 40,000 mL/(g h).

| Samples | Single toluene oxidation activity (°C) | | Activity in mixed VOCs oxidation (°C) | | | | Toluene oxidation activity in the presence of H ₂ O | | TCE oxidation activity in the presence of H ₂ O | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| | T ₅₀ | T ₉₀ | T ₅₀ | T ₉₀ | T ₅₀ | T ₉₀ | T ₅₀ | T ₉₀ | T ₅₀ | T ₉₀ |
| Pt/CeO ₂ | — | — | 324 | 375 | 400 | — | — | — | — | — |
| PtSn/CeO ₂ | 219 | 246 | 269 | 308 | 362 | 500 | 276 | 328 | 376 | 500 |
| Mn/ZSM-5 | 265 | 297 | 292 | 336 | 333 | 398 | 314 | 344 | 376 | 410 |
| PtSn/CeO ₂ + Mn/ZSM-5 | — | — | 280 | 331 | 335 | 430 | 299 | 339 | 355 | 436 |
| Pt/CeO ₂ &Mn/ZSM-5 | — | — | 267 | 398 | 315 | 438 | — | — | — | — |
| Mn/ZSM-5&PtSn/CeO ₂ | — | — | 262 | 299 | 319 | 390 | 270 | 316 | 371 | 431 |
| PtSn/CeO ₂ &Mn/ZSM-5 | 212 | 243 | 258 | 296 | 319 | 384 | 266 | 298 | 328 | 399 |

**Fig. 2.** (A) TEM image of the PtSn NPs, (B) line scan of PtSn NPs, (C, D) EDS elemental mappings of PtSn NPs, and (E–H) EDS elemental mappings of Mn/ZSM-5.

the underlying relationship between the structure and catalytic performances of the as-obtained catalysts. The structures and morphologies of the samples could be measured using transmission electron microscopy (TEM), as shown in Fig. 2. The shapes of the PtSn nanoparticles were regular, while they possessed homogeneous cube-like morphologies. The result of the line-scan analysis and elemental mapping (Fig. 2B–D) indicated that there was a uniform distribution of Pt and Sn species over the entire region. The elemental mappings of the Mn/ZSM-5 (Fig. 2E–H) also revealed that Mn was well dispersed on the surface of the ZSM-5.

Fig. 3 shows the X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of the fresh and used PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 samples after reaction at 400 °C for 30 h. Based on the XRD pattern (JCPDS PDF# 34-0394) of a standard ceria sample, the CeO₂ in all of the samples possessed cubic crystal structures. For the fresh or used PtSn/CeO₂ samples, the XRD pattern was a typical cubic CeO₂ phase, and no characteristic diffraction signals assignable to the PtSn phase were recorded, a result possibly owing to the low loading of the noble metal or high dispersion on the CeO₂ surface. For the Mn/ZSM-5 samples, the peaks corresponding to Mn₂O₃ (JCPDS 41-1442, at $2\theta = 32.9^\circ$ and 55.2°) and ZSM-5 with an MFI-type framework (JCPDS 44-0003, at $2\theta = 7.9^\circ, 8.8^\circ, 23.0^\circ, 23.9^\circ, 29.8^\circ$, and 45.5°) could be clearly observed [35,36].

X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was used to gain insights into the surface elemental compositions of the catalysts, and the corresponding surface elemental molar ratios are listed in Table 2. In the Pt 4f XPS spectra (Fig. 4A), the asymmetric Pt 4f_{7/2} and Pt 4f_{5/2} spectra of each sample could be divided into two components at 70.7 and 72.3 eV and at 73.9 and 76.0 eV, respectively. The signals at 70.7 and 73.9 eV were due to Pt⁰ species, while those at 72.3 and 76.0 eV were due to Pt²⁺ species [37–40]. The Pt⁰/Pt²⁺ molar ratios (2.96) of the PtSn/CeO₂-fresh were higher than those (0.73) of the Pt/CeO₂-fresh. Previous studies have identified that metallic Pt (Pt⁰) species are the active sites for the activation of molecular oxygen at low temperatures, favoring the oxidation of toluene to CO₂ and H₂O [41–45]. Hence, the increase in Pt⁰ content may have been one of the reasons for the enhanced PtSn/CeO₂ catalytic activity for toluene oxidation. After the high-temperature reaction, the Pt⁰/Pt²⁺ molar ratios of the used samples decreased due to the oxidation of platinum species in the oxidizing atmosphere.

Fig. 4B shows the Mn 2p_{3/2} XPS spectra of the Mn-containing samples. The Mn 2p_{3/2} spectra were asymmetric and could be decomposed into two components at binding energies (BEs) of 643.2 and 641.0 eV,

which were ascribed to the surface Mn⁴⁺ and Mn³⁺ species, respectively [46,47]. The Mn³⁺ on the surface, with low valence states of Mn, induced the appearance of surface oxygen vacancies, which favored the adsorption and activation of gas-phase oxygen to highly active oxygen species [48,49]. In addition, in the O 1s XPS spectra shown in Fig. S2, each sample could be fitted with three oxygen chemical states, with the BEs of surface lattice oxygen (O_{latt}) species at 529.0/529.6 eV, those of surface adsorbed oxygen (O_{ads}, e.g., O₂, O₂⁻, or O⁻) species at 530.6/530.8 eV, and those of surface hydroxyl species at 532.2/532.5 eV [40,50]. In particular, the peak at 532.2 eV of the Mn/ZSM-5 sample was large due to the large number of hydroxyl species on the HZSM-5 surface [51].

For the C 1s XPS spectra shown in Fig. 4C and D, C 1s peak at 284.8 eV was assigned to carbon species adsorbed on the surface as a contaminant. The binding energy at 284.8 eV was related to the C–C bonds of contaminant carbon [52,53]. Furthermore, the presence of surface carbonate species created peaks that appeared at 286.2 and 288.6 eV, which were assigned to C–O and C=O bonds, respectively [44,52,54]. The C–O/C–C ratio was calculated as the ratio of the peak area at 286.2 eV to that at 284.8 eV. It can be seen from Fig. S3(B) and Table 2 that the O_{ads}/O_{latt} and C–O/C–C molar ratios of the used samples increased slightly after the long-term reaction time. This result was due to the accumulation of carbonate species on the surface of the samples during the co-oxidation of CVOs and VOCs. As shown in Table 2, the Mn/ZSM-5 sample showed the highest C–O/C–C ratio. Similarly, coke deposition on the tandem catalyst and the physical mixture containing the Mn/ZSM-5 sample was observed, while the C–O/C–C ratio of the PtSn/CeO₂ sample was negligible, which indicated that the accumulation of carbonates was more severe on the zeolite catalyst than on the PtSn/CeO₂ catalyst. This result was consistent with the thermogravimetry profile (Fig. S3) of the used catalyst. Fig. S4 shows the three stages of mass loss: 216–276 °C, 379–490 °C, and 612–850 °C. The first stage corresponded to the removal of moisture and physical absorbents (such as toluene and TCE). The weight loss between 379 and 490 °C was mainly attributed to the combustion of coke deposits and the oxidation of chemically adsorbed species on the catalyst surface, while the last stage above 600 °C was associated with the removal of carbonaceous species and the dehydroxylation process of zeolites [55]. During the heating ramp the weight of PtSn/CeO₂ shows very small change with temperature. The higher amount of coke deposition appeared on Mn/ZSM-5 surface.

The Cl 2p XPS spectrum is shown in Fig. S2D, and the surface chlorinity calculated from XPS quantitative results is shown in Table 2. The surface chlorinity reached levels of up to 4.58 %, as shown in Table 2, for the PtSn/CeO₂ sample of the tandem catalyst, which was much higher than the 2.04 % for the Mn/ZSM-5 sample of the tandem catalyst after 30 h of testing. The long-term aging indeed caused Cl species accumulation on the surface of the as-obtained catalysts, while for the Mn/ZSM-5 catalyst, the resulting Cl species reacted with the sufficient H source from the Brønsted acid sites to generate HCl, and thus, the Cl species were easily desorbed from the catalyst.

3.3. Catalytic performance of series of tandem catalysts

To understand the advantages of the tandem catalysts, various tandem catalysts were further investigated. The catalytic activity of the Pt/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 catalyst for the catalytic oxidation of mixed VOCs is shown in Fig. 5 A. It can be seen that in the absence of SnO_x in the catalysts, the toluene oxidation was not affected, but the TCE was not oxidized completely at reaction temperatures below 400 °C. For the Pt/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 catalyst, the TCE conversion reached only 52 % at 400 °C. To better understand the tandem catalysis over PtSn/CeO₂ and Mn/ZSM-5, in a tubular fixed-bed reactor, tandem catalysts of different arrangements were designed, including PtSn/CeO₂ packed in front of Mn/ZSM-5 and PtSn/CeO₂ packed behind Mn/ZSM-5. Similar catalytic behavior was observed for toluene and TCE co-oxidation (Fig. 5B),

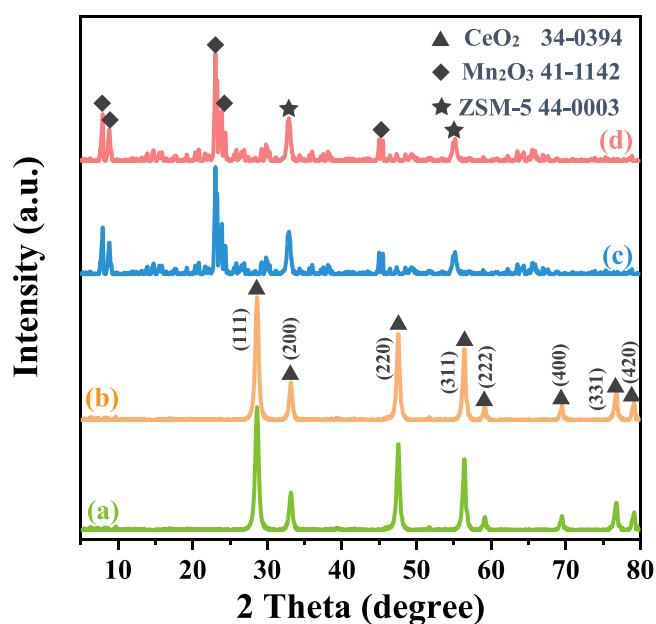


Fig. 3. XRD patterns of the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 sample: (a) PtSn/CeO₂-fresh, (b) PtSn/CeO₂-used, (c) Mn/ZSM-5-fresh, and (d) Mn/ZSM-5-used.

Table 2

Actual metal loading of the as-obtained samples and surface element compositions of the fresh and used samples for toluene and TCE co-oxidation at SV = 40,000 mL/(g h).

| Samples | Actual metal loadings (wt%) ^a | | | Surface element composition ^b (mol/mol) | | | | | Chlorinity (%) ^c |
|--|--|------|-----|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| | Pt | Sn | Mn | Pt ⁰ /Pt ²⁺ | Ce ³⁺ /Ce ⁴⁺ | Mn ³⁺ /Mn ⁴⁺ | O _{ads} /O _{latt} | C—O/C—C | |
| Pt/CeO ₂ -fresh | 0.72 | — | — | 0.73 | 0.10 | — | 0.16 | 0.22 | — |
| PtSn/CeO ₂ -fresh | 0.76 | 0.23 | — | 2.96 | 0.10 | — | 0.20 | 0.22 | — |
| Mn/ZSM-5-fresh | — | — | 8.2 | — | — | 3.10 | 0.25 | 0.22 | — |
| PtSn/CeO ₂ -used | 0.76 | 0.23 | — | 0.25 | 0.09 | — | 0.26 | 0.28 | 4.86 |
| Mn/ZSM-5-used | — | — | 8.2 | — | — | 2.89 | 0.30 | 1.17 | 2.12 |
| PtSn/CeO ₂ +Mn/ZSM-5-used | 0.76 | 0.23 | 8.2 | 1.28 | 0.08 | 2.86 | 0.28 | 1.14 | 4.33 |
| (PtSn/CeO ₂)&Mn/ZSM-5-used | 0.76 | 0.23 | — | 1.69 | 0.08 | — | 0.22 | 0.31 | 4.58 |
| PtSn/CeO ₂ &(Mn/ZSM-5)-used | — | — | 8.2 | — | — | 2.99 | 0.27 | 0.96 | 2.04 |

^a Determined by the ICP - AES technique.

^b Estimated by quantitatively analyzing the peaks in XPS spectra of the samples.

^c Chlorinity (%) is obtained from XPS quantitative result.

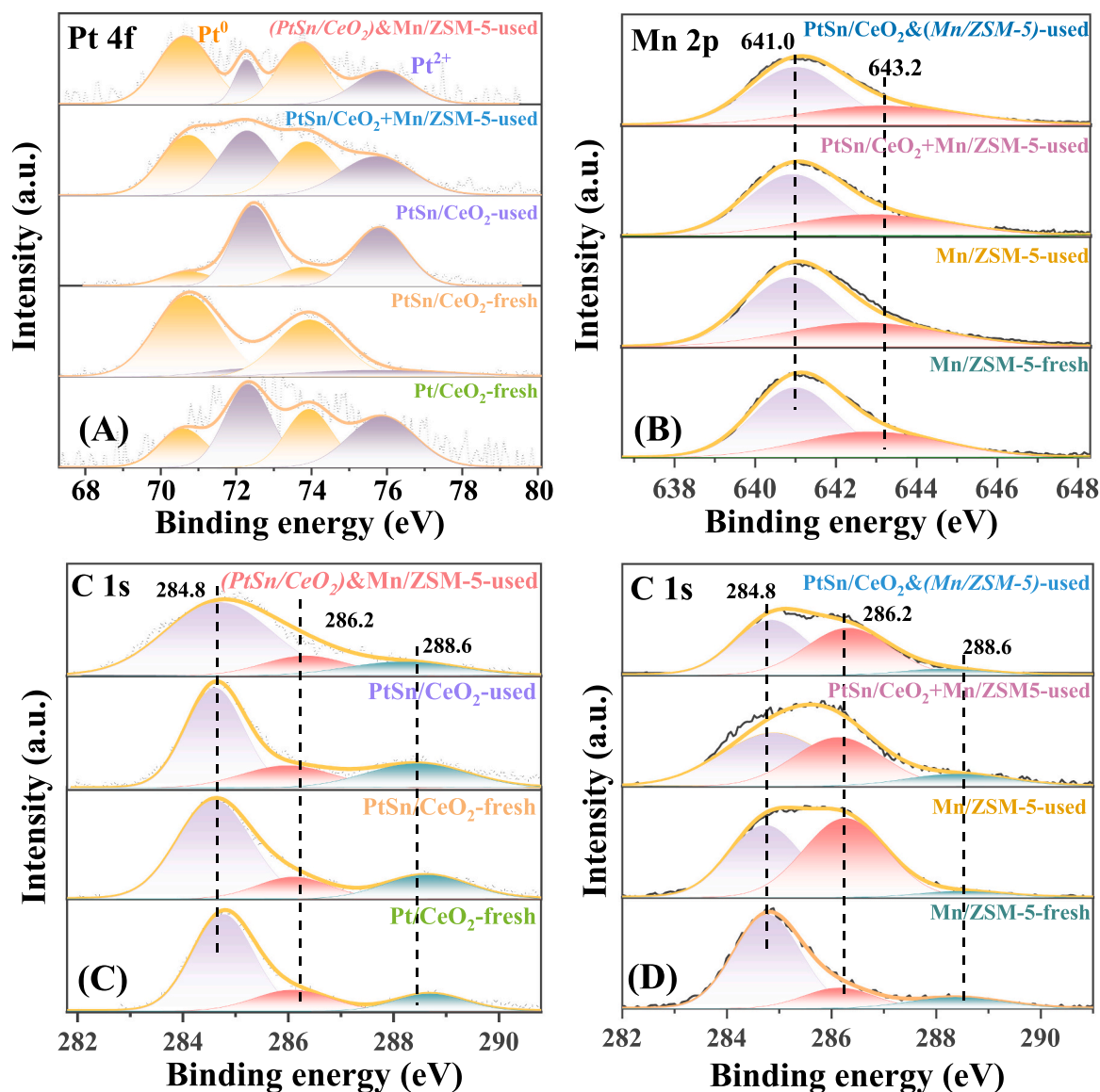


Fig. 4. (A) Pt 4f, (B) Mn 2p, and (C–D) C 1s XPS spectra of the as-obtained samples.

although in the reverse order. For Mn/ZSM-5& PtSn/CeO₂, the first stage could achieve highly efficient catalytic oxidation of TCE, and the second stage could help the toluene oxidation. As a consequence, similar catalytic behavior observed for toluene and TCE co-oxidation, although

in the reverse order of the PtSn/CeO₂ and Mn/ZSM-5 catalyst. However, different oxidation priority over PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 and Mn/ZSM-5&PtSn/CeO₂ led to distinct product distribution, as shown in Fig. 5 C. The selective temperatures over the different catalysts varied when the

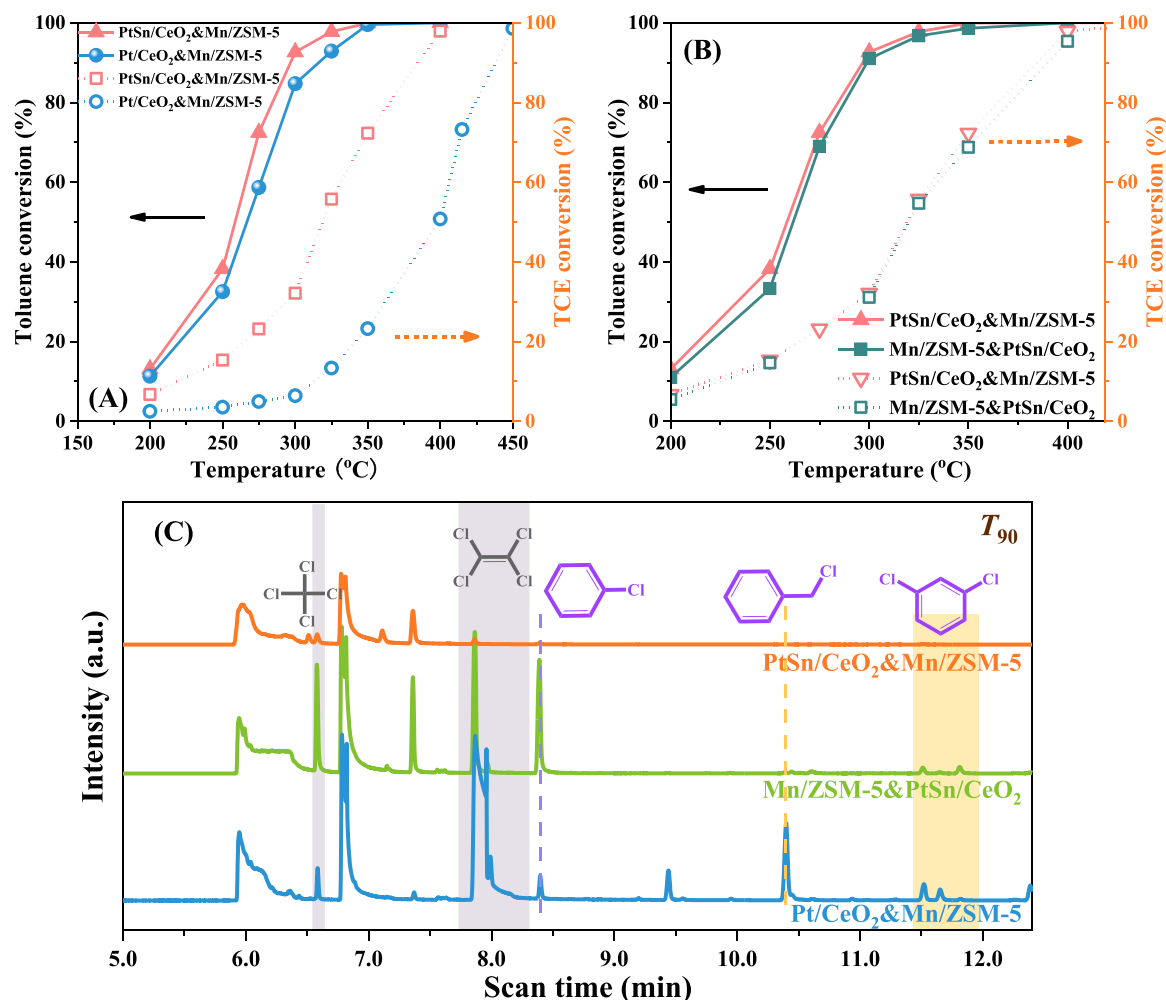


Fig. 5. (A) Toluene and (B) TCE conversion as a function of temperature over the as-obtained samples for the mixed VOCs oxidation and SV = 40000 mL/(g h). Reaction condition: (1000 ppm toluene + 200 ppm TCE + 20 vol% O₂ + N₂ (balance)), and SV = 40,000 mL/(g h)). (C) qualitative analysis of gaseous by-products generated over the as-obtained samples at the temperature for TCE conversion of 90 %.

experiments were carried out at a similar TCE conversion of 90 %. The Mn/ZSM-5&PtSn/CeO₂ samples and the Pt/CeO₂& Mn/ZSM-5 samples both produced a number of unexpected byproducts, including CB, 1,3-dichlorobenzene, and 4-chlorotoluene. The above results indicate that the introduction of SnO_x was beneficial to the TCE oxidation, and tandem catalysis could provide an opportunity to develop an efficient catalytic process to achieve a high catalytic activity and inhibit toxic by-product generation in a single reactor using a tandem catalyst composed of a Pt-based catalyst and an acid-solid catalyst.

The temperature-programmed surface reaction (TPSR) technique was used to investigate the desorption-oxidation behaviors of toluene and TCE over the two individual catalysts, the physical mixture of the catalysts, and the tandem arrangement of the two individual catalysts at 100–900 °C, and the results are shown in Fig. 6(E–H). The signals with $m/z = 91$ and 130 were assigned to desorption of the strongly chemisorbed toluene and TCE species, respectively. Similarly, the desorption temperature of toluene species was higher than that of TCE species on all as-obtained samples, indicating that toluene species were more strongly adsorbed than TCE species on the as-obtained samples. Compared with the PtSn/CeO₂ catalyst, a much higher toluene desorption intensity and higher desorption temperature were observed over the Mn/ZSM-5, PtSn/CeO₂ + Mn/ZSM-5, and PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 samples, suggesting that the interactions between the reactants and Mn/ZSM-5 were much stronger than those between the reactants and PtSn/CeO₂. This was likely because the HZSM-5 possessed a unique porous structure and

abundant acid sites, leading to good toluene and TCE adsorption abilities. CO₂ is one of the target products of VOCs combustion. There were two CO₂ desorption peaks over the PtSn/CeO₂ + Mn/ZSM-5 and PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 samples centered at 120–122 °C and 250–265 °C, respectively in Fig. 6 G. The former was assigned to the oxidation of toluene with the adsorbed oxygen (O₂, O₂⁻, or O⁻) species, while the latter was assigned to the oxidation of toluene and TCE with the lattice oxygen species. CO₂ was detected in PtSn/CeO₂ and Mn/ZSM-5 at 120 °C and 270 °C, respectively, which indicated that PtSn/CeO₂ played a major role in toluene oxidation at lower temperatures and that Mn/ZSM-5 made a significant contribution to TCE oxidation. Meanwhile, the desorption intensity of HCl was greater on Mn/ZSM-5 than on PtSn/CeO₂, in line with the above conclusions. The CO₂ signals over the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 sample increased significantly compared with those over the PtSn/CeO₂ + Mn/ZSM-5 sample, which suggested that the synergistic effect between PtSn/CeO₂ and Mn/ZSM-5 promoted the deep oxidation of toluene and TCE to CO₂ and inhibited the production of byproducts. HCl is the expected final product for TCE oxidation, and its desorption signal ($m/z = 36$) is shown in Fig. 6H. Oxidative dissociation of the C–Cl bonds produced Cl atoms, and the generated Cl atoms combined with the protons on the catalyst to form HCl at low temperatures [56]. HCl was formed on tandem catalysts at lower temperatures, and the peak areas of tandem catalysts were much higher than those of single catalysts, consistent with the evaluation results for the catalytic activities and qualitative identification of organic byproducts, as shown

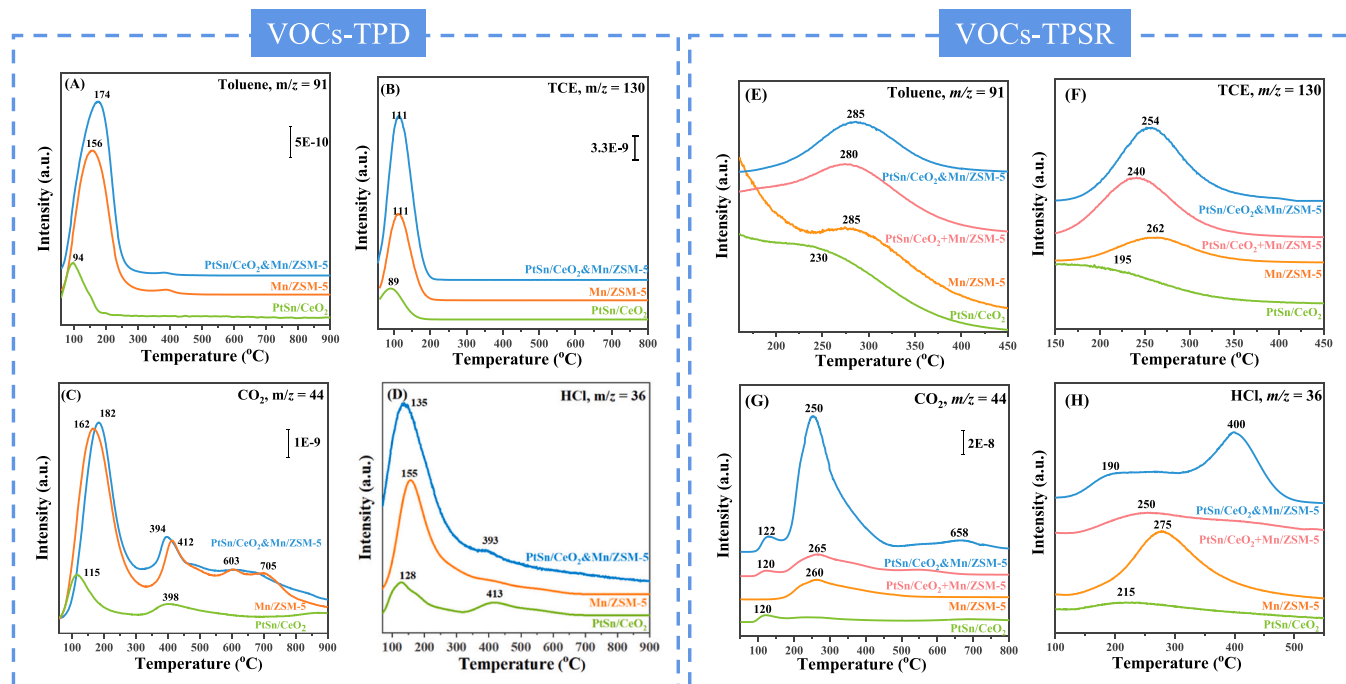


Fig. 6. (A–D) (toluene + TCE)-TPD profiles and (E–H) (toluene + TCE)-TPSR profiles over the different samples.

in Fig. 1. This result confirmed that tandem catalysts with separated catalytic functions can inhibit the formation of byproducts and promote the desorption of Cl-containing species. It can be concluded that the tandem arrangement of the two individual catalysts and the doping of SnO_x increased the catalytic activity and inhibited the production of byproducts.

A comparison of the results for VOCs-TPD and VOCs-TPSR revealed

that the toluene and TCE desorption temperatures were increased, while the CO_2 formation temperature was decreased in the presence of O_2 , indicating that gaseous oxygen facilitated the oxidation of toluene and TCE. Furthermore, O_2 was introduced during the heating process, and the CO_2 peak area did not show an obvious decrease at low temperatures (below 200°C). However, the CO_2 peak area increased significantly above 200°C in the presence of O_2 , which was attributed to the gaseous

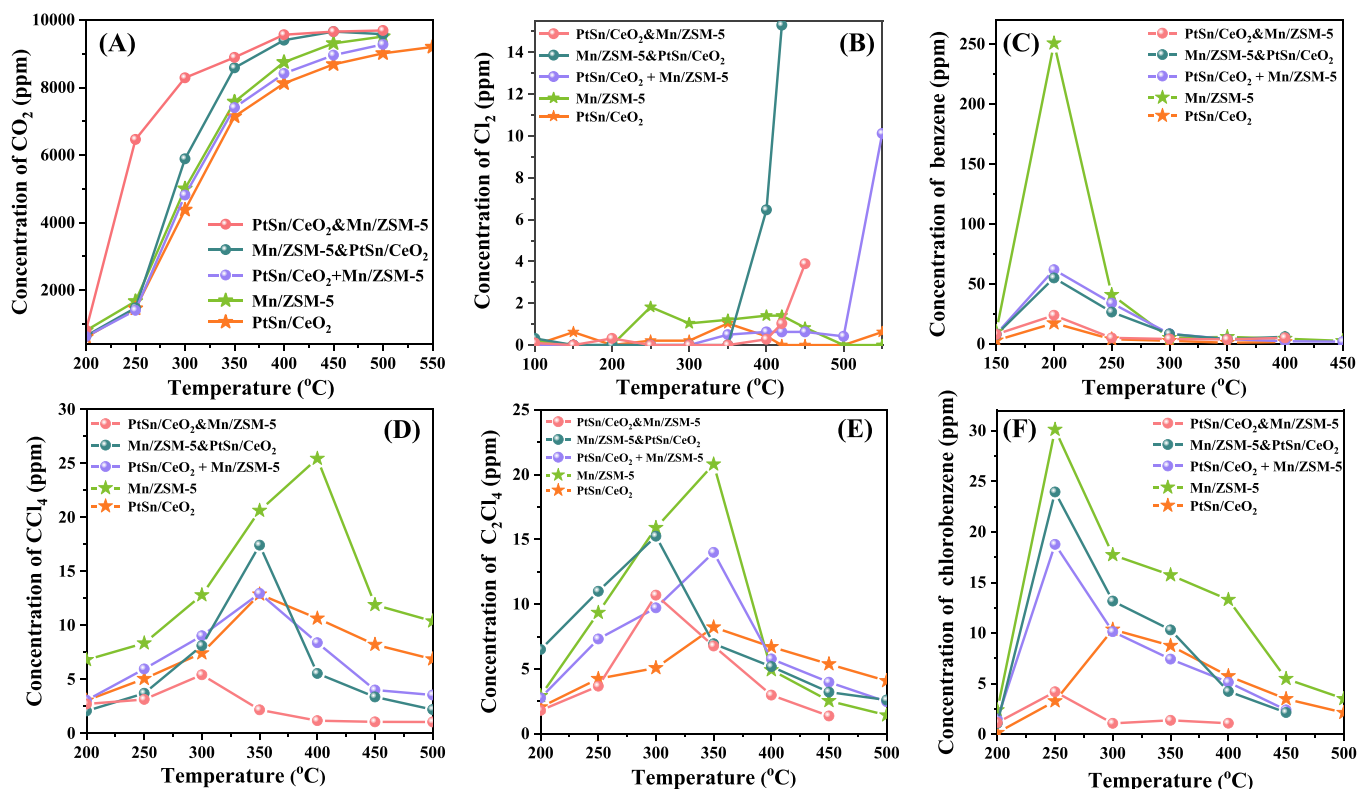


Fig. 7. Product concentration as a function of temperature over the as-obtained samples.

oxygen that played a critical role in the rapid replenishment of active surface lattice oxygen, thus accelerating the oxidation of toluene and TCE.

3.4. Catalyst selectivity and stability

It is necessary to analyze the product selectivity over the different catalysts. The concentrations of a few intermediates, such as benzaldehyde (C_7H_6O) and 4-chlorotoluene (C_7H_7Cl), were too low to detect. Hence, Fig. 7 illustrates the quantitative analyses of the main organic byproducts. The concentrations of byproducts increased with temperature, but when the reaction temperature increased to 350–400 °C, the concentrations of CCl_4 and C_2Cl_4 decreased gradually (Fig. 7D and E), and the concentration of Cl_2 increased rapidly over $PtSn/CeO_2 + Mn/ZSM-5$ and $Mn/ZSM-5$ and $Mn/ZSM-5 + PtSn/CeO_2$, which indicated that the decomposition of organic byproducts at high temperature and the occurrence of the Deacon reaction. Furthermore, the concentration of benzene increased at 150–200 °C, and decreased at 200–250 °C (Fig. 7C). In contrast, the chlorobenzene concentration increased at 200–250 °C and decreased at 250–300 °C (Fig. 7F), indicating that benzene is the precursor for the generation of chlorobenzene. The concentrations of byproducts were higher over $Mn/ZSM-5$ than over other catalysts; this was due to the inadequate oxidation ability of $Mn/ZSM-5$. For the $PtSn/CeO_2$ sample, the formation of benzene and chlorobenzene was inhibited. In other words, the $PtSn/CeO_2$ sample showed better catalytic activities in toluene oxidation at lower temperatures (consistent with the results for VOCs-TPSR), which is favorable for suppressing the formation of chlorobenzene, 1,3-dichlorobenzene, and 4-chlorotoluene.

CO_2 is one of the target products of VOCs combustion. As shown in Fig. 7A, the $PtSn/CeO_2 + Mn/ZSM-5$ exhibited higher CO_2 yields than the other three catalysts, which were comparable to the toluene and TCE conversion trends, indicating that very little toluene and TCE were oxidized to organic byproducts over the $PtSn/CeO_2 + Mn/ZSM-5$ catalyst. In other words, the $PtSn/CeO_2$, $Mn/ZSM-5$, and $Mn/ZSM-5 + PtSn/CeO_2$ contributed to CO_2 yields that were apparently lower than the mixed VOCs conversion, revealing that they produced many more organic byproducts than the $PtSn/CeO_2 + Mn/ZSM-5$. HCl and Cl_2 were the final products containing Cl, which could effectively reduce the Cl species deposition on the catalyst surface. Thus, the concentration of Cl_2

was analyzed during the catalytic oxidation of the mixed VOCs. It can be seen that the Deacon reaction became significant at 350 °C (Fig. 7B), where the concentration of Cl_2 increased with temperature and finally reached up to 15.3, 10.1, and 3.9 ppm over $Mn/ZSM-5 + PtSn/CeO_2$, $PtSn/CeO_2 + Mn/ZSM-5$, and $PtSn/CeO_2 + Mn/ZSM-5$, respectively, at temperatures of 400 °C, 550 °C and 450 °C, respectively. For the $PtSn/CeO_2$ samples, there was no apparent generation of Cl_2 , which may have been because its redox ability was weaker than that of the tandem catalysts and the Cl species could also react with aromatic skeletons, generating CB through the electrophilic substitution [57]. Therefore, polychlorinated byproducts were restrained over $PtSn/CeO_2 + Mn/ZSM-5$ because of reduced Cl_2 formation. Similarly, very little Cl_2 was detected over the $Mn/ZSM-5$, which may have been due to the Brønsted acidity playing a dominant role in the adsorption and activation of CVOs, significantly inhibiting the formation of molecular chlorine [58,59].

The selectivity of chlorine-containing products was calculated using the Cl mass balance approach, and the results are shown in Fig. 8. There was a sharp increase in the selectivity of HCl as the temperature increased, which was accompanied by a significant reduction in the formation of byproducts. The $PtSn/CeO_2 + Mn/ZSM-5$ catalyst showed high HCl selectivity, which reached 82.1 % at 328 °C with 50 % TCE conversion and even reached up to 95.6 % at 400 °C with 90 % TCE conversion. However, the HCl selectivity was only 43.9 % over $Mn/ZSM-5$ at a TCE conversion rate of 50 %. In this study, a large amount of polychlorinated byproducts was detected over MnO_x , which is consistent with a previous study [60].

The stability of catalysts is crucial for industrial applications. Fig. S4D shows the catalytic stability of the $PtSn/CeO_2 + Mn/ZSM-5$ for the mixed VOCs oxidation at 400 °C (toluene and TCE conversion = 100 % at $SV = 40,000 \text{ mL}/(\text{g h})$). The toluene and TCE could maintain 100 % conversion for 30 h, indicating that the $PtSn/CeO_2 + Mn/ZSM-5$ sample possessed high resistance to the Cl species. We also examined the crystal structures of the used $PtSn/CeO_2 + Mn/ZSM-5$ sample, and its XRD patterns are shown in Fig. 3. There were no apparent changes in the crystal structures of the $PtSn/CeO_2$ or $Mn/ZSM-5$ before and after the long-term experiments.

The formation of water is inevitable during the catalytic oxidation process. Water resistance of a catalyst is also an important factor for

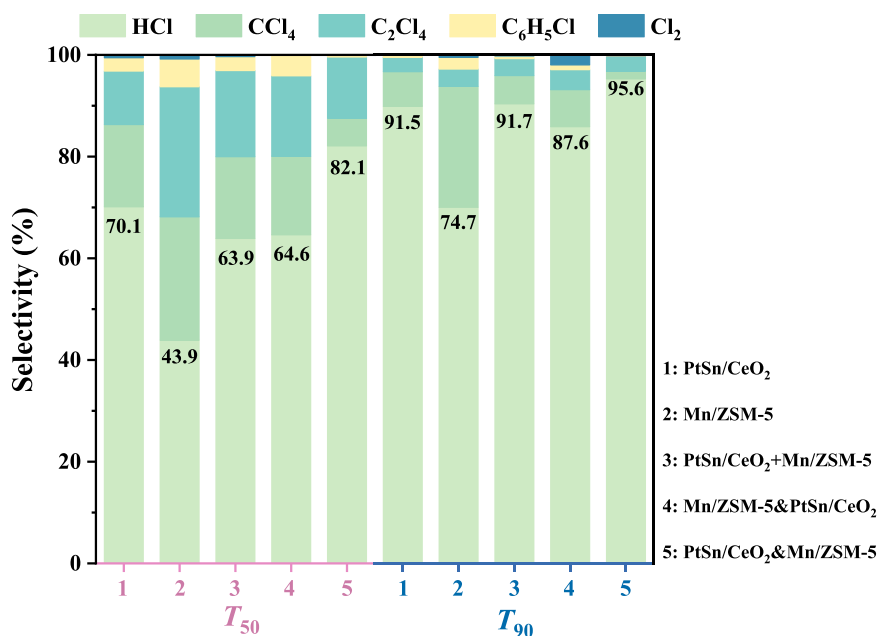


Fig. 8. Selectivity of chlorine containing product over the as-obtained samples at the temperature for TCE conversion of 50 % and 90 %. Reaction condition: (1000 ppm toluene + 200 ppm TCE + 20 vol% O_2 + N_2 (balance)), and $SV = 40,000 \text{ mL}/(\text{g h})$.

evaluating the catalyst stability. The effect of 5.0 vol% water vapor introduction on the catalytic performances of the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 and PtSn/CeO₂ + Mn/ZSM-5 was investigated, and the results are shown in Fig. S5. It can be seen that there was no significant loss in toluene conversion in the presence of 5.0 vol% water vapor. Simultaneously, the TCE conversion over the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 dropped slightly, but the catalytic activity was recovered after water vapor was cut off. In contrast, the TCE conversion over the PtSn/CeO₂ + Mn/ZSM-5 decreased by about 10 % when 5.0 vol% of water vapor was introduced at 335 °C, and the initial value could not be recovered. Similarly, at higher temperatures, the water-resistance abilities of PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 and PtSn/CeO₂ + Mn/ZSM-5 for the mixed VOCs oxidation were investigated, as shown in Fig. S4(A,B). It became apparent that water had little effect on the mixed VOC oxidation reaction at higher temperatures, which was ascribed to the deep oxidation of VOCs and byproducts at elevated temperatures. Meanwhile, the influence of water vapor on the catalytic activity of the as-obtained samples was investigated. As observed in Fig. 9 A and B, for toluene conversion, the T_{50} of PtSn/CeO₂, Mn/ZSM-5&PtSn/CeO₂, and PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 decreased by 6–8 °C when 5 vol% of H₂O was added. In contrast, the influence of H₂O on Mn/ZSM-5 and PtSn/CeO₂ + Mn/ZSM-5 was more noticeable (T_{50} decreased by 18–23 °C). Furthermore, the inhibitive effect of H₂O on the catalytic oxidation of TCE became apparent, and the conversion of TCE largely decreased over the Mn/ZSM-5 (T_{50} from

333 °C to 376 °C), PtSn/CeO₂ + Mn/ZSM-5 (T_{50} from 335 °C to 356 °C), and Mn/ZSM-5&PtSn/CeO₂ (T_{50} from 319 °C to 371 °C) catalysts. However, the existence of water vapor could slightly affect the conversion of TCE on the PtSn/CeO₂ and PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 catalysts. Thus, the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 catalyst possessed excellent water resistance ability, indicating that the tandem catalyst has potential for practical industrial applications.

To explain why the tandem catalyst possessed better water-resistance abilities, the effects of water vapor on the formation of organic byproducts were also investigated, as shown in Fig. 10. For the Mn/ZSM-5, PtSn/CeO₂ + Mn/ZSM-5, and Mn/ZSM-5&PtSn/CeO₂ samples, the amounts of generated C₂Cl₄, C₇H₇Cl, and C₆H₄Cl₂ increased after the addition of water. In contrast, for the PtSn/CeO₂ and PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 samples, there was no significant increase in all types of products with the addition of water at the same temperature. According to the above results, the addition of water deactivated the Mn/ZSM-5, PtSn/CeO₂ + Mn/ZSM-5, and Mn/ZSM-5&PtSn/CeO₂ samples, and there was a massive accumulation of intermediates over Mn/ZSM-5, which could be the reason for the deactivation. In other words, the reduced formation of byproducts over PtSn/CeO₂ and the separated catalytic functions of the tandem catalyst are the reasons for the excellent water resistance of the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 catalyst.

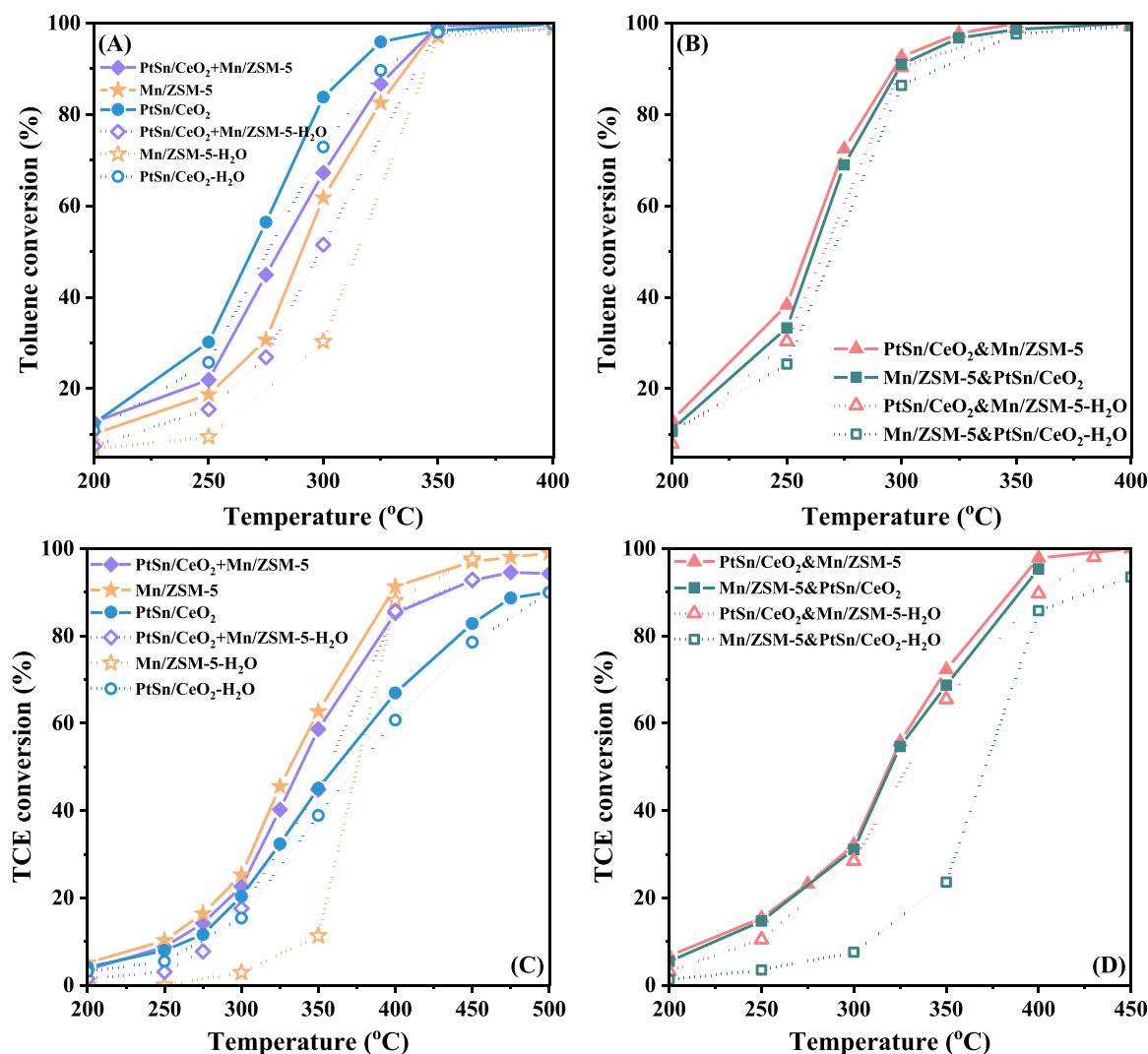


Fig. 9. (A-D) Catalytic activities of the as-obtained samples for toluene and TCE co-oxidation in the presence or absence of water vapor at SV = 40,000 mL/(g h). Reaction condition: (1000 ppm toluene + 200 ppm TCE + 20 vol% O₂ + N₂ (balance)).

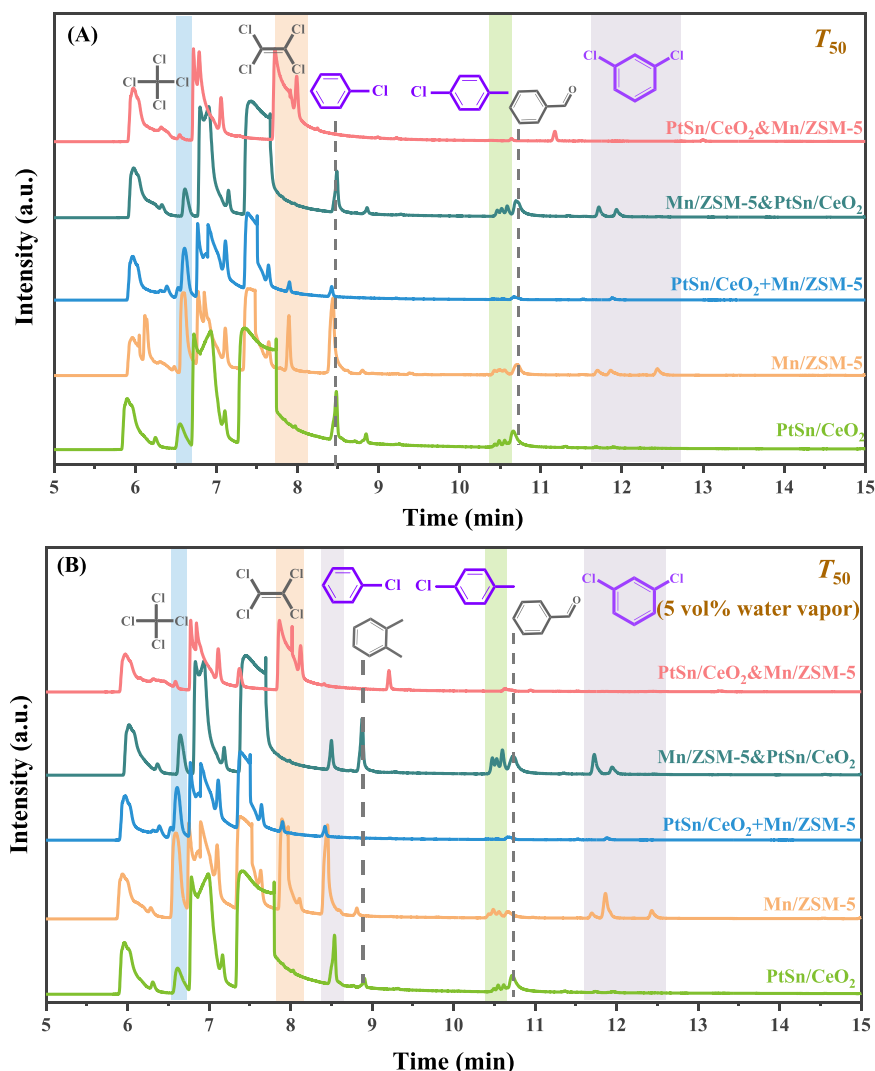


Fig. 10. Qualitative analysis of gaseous by-products generated in the (A) absence and (B) presence of 5 vol% water vapor over the different samples at the temperature for 50 % TCE conversion.

3.5. Possible reaction mechanism

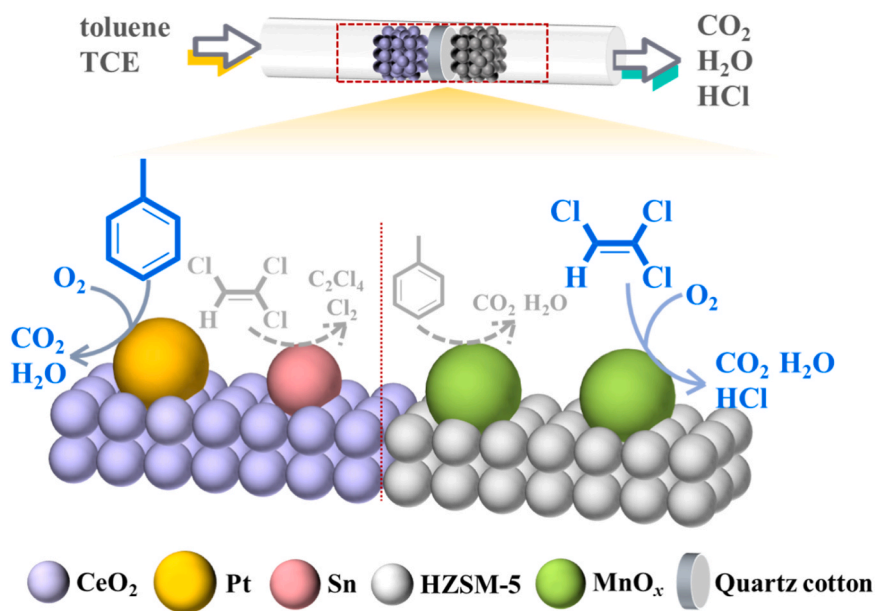
Based on the above discussion, a two-step oxidation mechanism for the catalytic combustion of toluene and TCE over the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 catalyst was proposed (shown in Scheme 1). There are two possible explanations for why CB, 1,3-dichlorobenzene, and 4-chlorotoluene byproducts were not found for the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 catalyst but found for the single catalysts or other tandem catalysts. We can assume that one of the following explains the lack of byproduct formation: a) these byproducts never appeared in the toluene and TCE oxidation, and b) the intermediates were completely oxidized over the second part of the tandem catalyst. These toxic products were still detected on the Mn/ZSM-5&Mn/ZSM-5 samples at 350 °C and 420 °C (Fig. S6), ruling out the second hypothesis. Thus, the two parts of the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 catalysts played a vital role in reducing toxic byproducts and in enhancing the catalytic activity for CVOCs oxidation and catalytic selectivity to HCl.

Recent studies have identified that Pt species are the active sites for the activation of molecular O₂, favoring the complete oxidation of toluene to CO₂ and H₂O [41,44,61]. For CVOCs oxidation, surface acidity, especially the strength of Brønsted acid sites over the catalysts, was significant for TCE adsorption and degradation [62,63]. First, when the reactant passed the first part of the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 catalyst, most of the toluene was strongly adsorbed on the Pt sites and a certain

amount of TCE was weakly adsorbed on the SnO_x sites. Then, toluene was oxidized into carbon dioxide and water finally. At the same time, dechlorination and chlorination occurred on the SnO_x sites throughout the entire TCE oxidation process. Second, the deep oxidation of residual TCE and Cl-containing byproducts occurred in the second part of the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5. Thus, the dissociation of C—Cl and C—H bonds from the by-products proceeded normally on the second stage of the catalysts (Mn/ZSM-5). In other words, the deep oxidation of toluene and the dechlorination of TCE were relatively independent over the tandem catalysts, thus avoiding the generation of polychlorinated byproducts. However, compared to the tandem catalysts, the PtSn/CeO₂ and Mn/ZSM-5 in the physically mixed catalyst (PtSn/CeO₂+Mn/ZSM-5) contacted each other closely, which provided convenient conditions for severe electrophilic chlorination between aromatic hydrocarbons, and the Cl species desorbed from the TCE on these catalysts.

4. Conclusions

In summary, to realize the high-efficiency and safe disposal of mixed VOCs via catalytic oxidation, a promising PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 tandem catalyst with favorable active sites and optimized acid sites was constructed. The former part primarily achieved the deep oxidation of toluene at low temperatures, and the doping of SnO_x changed the electronic structure around Pt and weakened the adsorption of TCE at



Scheme 1. An illustration of toluene and TCE oxidation mechanism over the tandem catalyst.

the Pt sites. The latter part achieved the deep oxidation of residual TCE and Cl-containing byproducts. Moreover, the PtSn/CeO₂&Mn/ZSM-5 catalyst exhibited higher catalytic activity for toluene and TCE oxidation and an excellent ability to achieve deep oxidation of the byproducts, accomplishing facile VOCs elimination and restraining the formation of polychlorinated byproducts. The tandem catalyst exhibited good stability during long-time tests in toluene and TCE mixtures, even in the presence of water; the toluene and TCE conversion remained high. This study provides a new approach for developing efficient catalysts for the mixed VOCs elimination and may inspire the utilization of the tandem catalysis technique for optimizing multicomponent VOCs degradation processes.

CRedit authorship contribution statement

Zeya Li: Investigation, Writing – review & editing. **Ruyi Gao:** Methodology, Investigation. **Zhiqian Hou:** Investigation, Data curation. **Xiaohui Yu:** Methodology, Investigation. **Hongxing Dai:** Writing – review & editing, Project administration. **Jiguang Deng:** Supervision, Formal analysis, Investigation. **Yuxi Liu:** Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Project administration.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Data availability

No data was used for the research described in the article.

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Appendix A. Supporting information

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at [doi:10.1016/j.apcatb.2023.123131](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apcatb.2023.123131).

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